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Sent: 5/24/2016 2:22:30 PM
To: R3 EVERYONE [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c2ae8e7c98b4f2d840d71397fb41a12-R3 EVERYONE]; Kline, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a8bbc09f033b45c29be5e2ce790e2637-Kline, James]; Vowell, Natalie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c04ce9c2c004419e87c3452f1604b330-Vowell, Natalie]; Gold, Anne [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f9ff091960ae4baaada2746c9e2af1c5-Gold, Anne]; Johnson, Larry-C [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62231ebaf03e48eab17bda1373bf3d55-Ljohns05]
Subject: EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines -- Tuesday, May 24, 2016

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

***** DAILY HOT LIST *****

DEP secretary's email prior to departure used expletives, taunts

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER HARRISBURG - In the controversial email that helped fuel his resignation last week, Gov. Wolf's top environmental officer used expletives and taunts to needle advocates into actively lobbying for changes in gas drilling and other environmental protection regulations, according to a copy of the message obtained by the Inquirer and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "Where the f- were you people yesterday?" John Quigley, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, wrote on April 13 to environmental groups. "The House and Senate hold Russian show trials on vital environmental issues and there's no pushback at all from the environmental community? Nobody bothering to insert themselves in the news cycle?" He asked: "Is there no penalty for [Democratic] apostasy, at least, or shaming of the gas-shilling [Republicans]?" The unusually blunt email was a factor, if not the final straw, that led to Quigley's sudden resignation late Friday afternoon, according to a source familiar with his decision. It came as Wolf was weighing whether the email demonstrated that Quigley, who already had strained relationships with Republican legislators as well as his fellow Democrats in the administration, had allowed his objectivity to become clouded. A longtime environmental activist before taking office, Quigley has remained unavailable and out of public view since the email details surfaced last week. He could not be reached again Monday. But his supporters rushed to his defense, saying that his resignation was unwarranted and that he had been railroaded by special interests. In the email, sent from a private account, Quigley expressed frustration about delays in updates he wanted in the state's oil and gas drilling regulations as well as in clean air regulations. The changes have been a point of contention between industry officials and environmental groups.

Op-Ed: Ousted DEP boss John Quigley got railroaded

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS The truth never got its pants on. There's a famous quote variously attributed to either Mark Twain or Winston Churchill to wit: A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets its pants on. Right now, no one knows that better than John Quigley who resigned as Department of Environmental Protection Secretary on Friday. Full disclosure – John is a friend of mine. I worked with him at PennFuture and we collaborated on several projects as independent consultants. I have known and admired him and his work for more than a decade. Quigley is smart, courageous, forthright, fair and pragmatic. He adheres to no straitjacket ideology, and makes decisions based on facts. He is a skilled administrator committed to serving the interests of the public. He makes himself

accessible and understands that transparency in the workings of government is the best way to combat public cynicism and build public trust. He is, in short, an excellent public servant. Quigley was brought down by a vicious, successful smear campaign aided by shoddy reporting of half-truths and outright lies that journalists did not bother to verify. The smear was orchestrated by Sen. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne, who was attempting to divert public attention away from his votes to kill regulations that strengthen and modernize oversight of gas drilling and his vote to block Pennsylvania's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Editorial: Quigley 'resigns': He had to go

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW The end came quickly for John Quigley. For some, it was not quick enough. The secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection resigned Friday last, most assuredly with a push from Gov. Tom Wolf. The last straw appeared to be an April memo Mr. Quigley had written, critical of not only state legislators — Republican and Democrat — but also of Mr. Wolf. Quigley was not pleased with the pace of consideration of new and stricter shale and oil drilling rules. He also was said to be displeased with delays in changing clean-air regulations. Some legislators said Quigley did not play well with others. More troubling was the impression that Quigley was a dishonest broker. Indeed, his job as DEP chief was to protect the commonwealth's environment. But he often appeared to be too cushy with the more extreme factions of the environmental lobby — lobbying the lobbyists to lobby even more. And Quigley's discounting of the shale gas and oil industry's in an investor conference call in March was simply poor form. Encouraging responsible gas and oil extraction while protecting the environment need not be mutually exclusive. It was that balance that eluded Quigley. "Secretary Quigley demonstrated poor judgment," state Sen. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne/Carbon counties, said in part. Which is why he had to go.

More tainted Montco and Bucks wells closed after EPA tightens rules

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Eight more wells that supply public drinking water have been shut down in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and dozens of private wells have been called into question, after the Environmental Protection Agency issued more stringent guidelines on water contamination last week. In total, 16 public wells have been closed in the two counties since the discovery two years ago that drinking water in Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington Townships had been tainted by firefighting foams. The chemicals were used over decades in the mid- to late 20th century at now-shuttered naval air bases in the area. The new federal rules lower the amount of contaminant considered safe in drinking water. With the change, the number of private wells affected also has doubled, from 40 to 80. In Horsham, township officials have closed an additional three public wells, for a total of five. They and the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority "will continue to be vigilant in its unified response to this matter," the agency said Monday. The Warminster Municipal Authority also shut down three public wells on Friday "as a precaution," said general manager Timothy Hagey. All of the wells tested below the new EPA standard, but either came close to it or had previously tested above it, he said. About 20 private wells are affected, he said. Three public wells were previously taken off-line due to contamination. In Warrington, three wells had been closed initially, and two more were shut down last week, said water and sewer director Christian R. Jones. Residents with affected private wells will be contacted by the Navy or the EPA, he said. Perfluorinated compounds, which were commonly used in firefighting foams at the former naval air stations in Willow Grove and Warminster, have been linked to cancer and reproductive issues. The Navy, which is working with the township and covering costs resulting from the contamination, will host two public open houses this week, at the Horsham Township Community Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

DEP study of leaky abandoned wells tries to quantify a hidden climate threat

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE RUSH TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY — The rusty gas well in the forest clearing was easy to spot, its vent pipe as tall as a man and the grass around it only shin high. For the novice well hunters who traveled to the tract of state game lands last week, the 33-year-old well was a suitable substitute for less conspicuous relics of older oil and gas extraction eras they were learning how to identify. The idea is to take stock of an unwieldy class of hundreds of thousands of abandoned wells in Pennsylvania about which little is known, including where exactly they all are. Researchers with the state and at various universities and institutions are trying to determine what risk the old wells pose to the climate, the surrounding soil and water, and human health. The most acute risks are well known — abandoned wells have channeled gas into homes, creating the conditions for explosions. The scale of the

wells' less visible hazards is still emerging. A 2014 study by Princeton University researchers of 19 old plugged or abandoned wells in Pennsylvania found that all of them were emitting methane and some were spewing significant amounts of the potent greenhouse gas. The historical wells are not counted in official greenhouse gas emissions inventories, but taken together the state's estimated 300,000 to 500,000 abandoned oil and gas wells could be releasing as much as 4 percent to 7 percent of the total human-caused methane emissions in Pennsylvania, the study suggested.

Texas, W.Va. AGs ask EPA to halt spending on Clean Power Plan

WEST VIRGINIA RECORD CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton recently sent a letter urging the Environmental Protection Agency to stop spending federal tax dollars to comply with the halted Power Plan. "The entire point of the Supreme Court's extraordinary action in putting a stop to the Power Plan was to preserve the status quo pending the outcome of the litigation," Morrisey wrote in the letter, which can be viewed online. "EPA should respect that action by leaving things the way they are until the courts have had their say." The letter responds to a request by 14 state environmental agency officials seeking additional information and technical assistance from the EPA related to the Power Plan. Morrisey and Paxton ask that EPA decline the invitation to spend federal taxpayer dollars to aid compliance, specifically by discontinuing work on the "Clean Energy Incentive Program" ("CEIP") and the non-final carbon trading rules. In February, Morrisey and Paxton led 29 states and state agencies in winning a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court, a decision that denies the EPA authority to enforce the rule and calls into serious question the rule's legality. All compliance deadlines associated with the Power Plan were also frozen. The letter asserts that because the CEIP and the carbon trading rules have no legal significance without a legally operative Power Plan, taking action on these issues calls into question the EPA's commitment to the Supreme Court's order. Morrisey said that at minimum the EPA should reconsider spending scarce resources on a rule that the Supreme Court has indicated raises serious legal questions.

Draft Strategy Targets Lead, Infuses Justice in EPA Actions

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT The EPA would aim to address major pollution challenges for overburdened communities such as lead exposure, while implementing previously developed tools and processes under its draft environmental justice plan. The EJ 2020 Action Agenda draws praise for its focus on eliminating blood-lead level disparities in children, its overburdened community-focused enforcement approach, its use of metrics and for what some called its measured overall approach to justice issues.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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Epic Effort to Deepen Delaware River Shipping Channel Nears End Opponents continue to warn adverse environmental impacts will only be seen long term, and likely exacerbated by rising sea level. The Delaware River is getting deeper. Workers are in the final stages of a joint federal and state effort dredging the shipping channel to make way for larger ships. It's the culmination of a multi-million-dollar project stalled for years by doubts over economic benefits and fears of environmental damage. Talk of deepening the Delaware River's shipping channel by another five feet goes all the way back to the 1980s. But for years officials in Delaware and New Jersey refused to get on board and things got ugly -- to the point at which in 2005, Pennsylvania's then-governor Ed Rendell played hardball with New Jersey, threatening to shut down the PATCO trains that bring South Jersey commuters to Philadelphia. "We have to do something to get their attention and it's unfortunate and it's my hope that we'll work this out," Rendell said at the time. Rendell, along with Pennsylvania business leaders and unions, warned that without a deeper river, Philadelphia ports would lose customers. With fewer ships calling, the region would lose a lot of good-paying jobs. But environmentalists and state officials in New Jersey and Delaware continued crying foul right up until the day dredging boats finally started scooping mud out of the river in 2010.

Letter: Protect carp at sea ISSUE | SHAD - Protect fish at sea. Shad play a critical role in rivers and oceans and are part of our Pennsylvania heritage ("Fish-counter's goal: Adding to shad numbers," May 15). We can take steps to rebuild shad populations in our rivers, but these fish need better protection when they are at sea if they're to make it to spawn in freshwater. The management system doesn't do enough to protect fish such as shad that are caught unintentionally and in substantial numbers by commercial fishermen targeting more economically valuable species. When Congress updates the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act - the primary law that governs fisheries in federal waters - it should encourage a big-picture approach to managing these and other fish. We need scientists to continue their work and elected officials to strengthen fisheries management to ensure we build sustainable fish populations for generations to come..

Local researchers race to develop Zika vaccine A small biotech company and a global vaccine maker in Southeastern Pennsylvania are among those racing to come up with a vaccine to combat the rise in the spread of the Zika virus in Brazil and other countries. The United States has yet to face a major outbreak, but concern is growing, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that the number of pregnant women in the U.S. infected with the Zika virus had tripled - from 48 to 157 - due to a change in the way the government counts cases. Inovio Pharmaceuticals in Blue Bell is developing a DNA-based vaccine - using DNA sequences of the Zika virus - in a collaboration with the Wistar Institute in University City. Inovio has been working on the vaccine since late last year, and has tested it in mice and monkeys with positive results. "I am very confident that we will be the first company with a Zika vaccine in the clinic,"

said Joseph Kim, Inovio CEO, who founded the company with immunologist and vaccine expert David Weiner, now at Wistar. Inovio expects to begin clinical tests in people in the next few months.

PHILLY VOICE

Ex-DEP head dropped an 'F'-bomb in email before resignation Note to environmental groups deemed 'straw that broke camel's back' for John Quigly. Five weeks before John Quigly resigned from his post as secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, he fired off a stinging email to state environmental groups he felt were absent in the legislative battle over new oil and gas regulations. The email, published Monday by State Impact, has been described as "the straw that broke the camel's back" for Quigly. Some in Harrisburg sensed that his staunch environmental advocacy was steering him away from the consensus prioritized by Gov. Tom Wolf, who thanked Quigly for his service and named Philadelphia-native Patrick McDonnell as acting secretary pending a Senate vote. Reproduced in full below, the email was sent April 13 as state legislators considered stalling changes to clean air protections and oil and gas drilling regulations. In the days after it was sent, several environmental groups, including PennEnvironment and the Natural Resources Defense Council, ran critical ads calling for action on the regulations. *I've slept on this but can no longer hold back. Where the f--- were you people yesterday? The House and Senate hold Russia show trials on vital environmental issues and there's no pushback at all from the environmental community? Nobody bothering to insert themselves in the news cycle? Is there no penalty for D apostasy, at least, or shaming of the gas-shilling Rs? Apparently so...*

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

DEP study of leaky abandoned wells tries to quantify a hidden climate threat RUSH TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY — The rusty gas well in the forest clearing was easy to spot, its vent pipe as tall as a man and the grass around it only shin high. For the novice well hunters who traveled to the tract of state game lands last week, the 33-year-old well was a suitable substitute for less conspicuous relics of older oil and gas extraction eras they were learning how to identify. The idea is to take stock of an unwieldy class of hundreds of thousands of abandoned wells in Pennsylvania about which little is known, including where exactly they all are. Researchers with the state and at various universities and institutions are trying to determine what risk the old wells pose to the climate, the surrounding soil and water, and human health. The most acute risks are well known — abandoned wells have channeled gas into homes, creating the conditions for explosions. The scale of the wells' less visible hazards is still emerging. A 2014 study by Princeton University researchers of 19 old plugged or abandoned wells in Pennsylvania found that all of them were emitting methane and some were spewing significant amounts of the potent greenhouse gas. The historical wells are not counted in official greenhouse gas emissions inventories, but taken together the state's estimated 300,000 to 500,000 abandoned oil and gas wells could be releasing as much as 4 percent to 7 percent of the total human-caused methane emissions in Pennsylvania, the study suggested.

As utilities quietly turn to herbicides, a challenge arises Sarah Bernardi's property spans 16 acres of Westmoreland County, bordering a creek cloaked by green trees and shrubbery. Also bordering her property is a high-voltage transmission line carrying electricity from power plants to local utilities. Two summers ago, when West Penn Power told her it intended to spray herbicides to clear brush along its power line, she refused. She was worried the chemicals would get into the creek and get into drinking water. When the utility sprayed along her neighbors' property and notified her she also would have to be part of the program, she complained to the state. This month, her stand led to a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission decision to limit West Penn Power's use of the spray on her property. The lengthy case — and partial success — demonstrates the complications that can arise as electric utilities embrace herbicides as an effective tool to clear brush along hundreds of miles of transmission lines in southwestern Pennsylvania. It also illustrates that while landowners are generally comfortable with utility crews trimming trees and brush, many distrust chemical sprays. "I can see why they would want to come and cut these," Ms. Bernardi said, pointing at the vegetation inching higher toward the power line. "But I don't see why they have to poison the ground. It can't be right."

Editorial: Fix the locks: Don't miss this chance to repair vital waterways The 2008 federal stimulus was a missed chance for sweeping improvements on the Ohio and Mississippi river systems. Now there's another.

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PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Ex-DEP secretary's email mixes profanity, criticism of environmental groups HARRISBURG — In a profanity-laced email, former Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley blasted environmental groups for inaction on legislative efforts delaying oil and gas regulations. Quigley resigned Friday amid reports that he was pushed out by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf after a review was begun of Quigley's email. The email came amid Quigley's clashes with Republicans, who control the Legislature. GOP lawmakers described him as difficult to work with. Quigley declined to comment. "Where the (expletive) were you people yesterday," Quigley wrote in an April email. "The House and Senate hold Russian show trials on vital environmental issues and there's no pushback at all from the environmental community? Nobody bothering to insert themselves into the news cycle?" Quigley later wrote that the "environmental community is without influence" in Harrisburg. "The language is shocking," said House Republican spokesman Stephen Miskin. "I do think (the email) was a slap at the governor," Miskin said. Wolf's office declined to comment. "The governor is entitled to his own person to fill these posts, and if he believes that person is not doing the job he wants, he can ask that person to resign," said former DEP Secretary David Hess, an appointee of former Republican Gov. Tom Ridge. In his newsletter, Hess wrote that Quigley "was a tireless advocate for the environment and for the survival of DEP as an effective agency, something it is on the edge of losing these days. He raised uncomfortable questions many people did not want to face about the kinds of environmental protection programs we want going forward as a commonwealth. "That job is tough, especially in this day and age," Hess added.

Editorial: Quigley 'resigns': He had to go The end came quickly for John Quigley. For some, it was not quick enough. The secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection resigned Friday last, most assuredly with a push from Gov. Tom Wolf. The last straw appeared to be an April memo Mr. Quigley had written, critical of not only state legislators — Republican and Democrat — but also of Mr. Wolf. Quigley was not pleased with the pace of consideration of new and stricter shale and oil drilling rules. He also was said to be displeased with delays in changing clean-air regulations. Some legislators said Quigley did not play well with others. More troubling was the impression that Quigley was a dishonest broker. Indeed, his job as DEP chief was to protect the commonwealth's environment. But he often appeared to be too cushy with the more extreme factions of the environmental lobby — lobbying the lobbyists to lobby even more. And Quigley's discounting of the shale gas and oil industry's in an investor conference call in March was simply poor form. Encouraging responsible gas and oil extraction while protecting the environment need not be mutually exclusive. It was that balance that eluded Quigley. "Secretary Quigley demonstrated poor judgment," state Sen. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne/Carbon counties, said in part. Which is why he had to go.

Letter: Kerr's Westmoreland water defense all wet Regarding Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County resident manager Christopher Kerr's letter "Westmoreland water a bargain": Kerr failed to disclose he is also part owner of the company Utilishield that provides insurance for MAWC waterlines. He profits from the growth taking place at the authority. How can Kerr serve as an independent manager serving the public interest and also as an owner of a private company benefiting from the decisions made on behalf of ratepayers? Kerr's excuse for jacking up our rates 25 percent in 2013 and 25 percent this year is simply that everyone else is doing it so why not us? That's unacceptable...

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

Here's the email that led to the resignation of Wolf's environmental secretary StateImpact Pennsylvania has obtained a copy of the email sent by Governor Tom Wolf's environmental secretary, John Quigley, that led to his resignation Friday. "I've slept on this but can no longer hold back," Quigley wrote. "Where the f*ck were you people yesterday? The House and Senate hold Russian show trials on vital environmental issues and there's no pushback at all from the environmental community? Nobody bothering to insert themselves in the news cycle?" Quigley sent the profanity-laced note to several environmental groups the day after state House and Senate panels voted to reject oil and gas regulations, which he had championed in his job at the helm of the state Department of Environmental Protection. The same day, a Senate committee had also approved a bill to give lawmakers more oversight in efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Joe Minott, executive director of the Clean Air Counsel, was among the people who received the message. He calls Quigley a "good guy" who always put the priorities of the administration first. "It would be absurd if his departure was the result

of this email. I assume there were other things happening," says Minott. "The only question for me is— does this mean a change in [the Wolf administration's] priorities?"

Deepening the Delaware: Windfall or boondoggle? On a recent afternoon, local politicians and business leaders gathered at the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal in South Philadelphia. Standing in front of a giant blue and white crane used to lift containers off cargo ships, U.S. Senator Bob Casey told reporters he's confident Congress will approve the last chunk of federal funding needed to deepen the Delaware River's shipping channel this year. "It's a great sense of satisfaction because it allows this region to be much more competitive and to chart its own course for the future," said Casey. That course for the future is the promise of lots of good-paying jobs. A controversial, \$400 million project to deepen the Delaware River's shipping channel will wrap up next year. The project to dredge the river to a depth of 45 feet was held up for nearly three decades by state officials across the river in New Jersey and Delaware who didn't think it was worth spending millions in taxpayer dollars. And by environmentalists worried about its impact on the Delaware River. Dredging proponents say it will be a boost to the local economy.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Column: Enviro rush to defend ousted DEP boss John Quigley: Tuesday Morning Coffee **Good Tuesday Morning, Fellow Seekers.** Environmental advocates were rushing to defend former state **Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley**, with one arguing that the Wolf administration's top regulator was railroaded into resigning. **Quigley** was a "tireless advocate for the environment and for the survival of DEP as an effective agency, something it is on the edge of losing these days," **David Hess**, a former DEP Secretary under **Gov. Mark Schweiker** wrote in a newsletter, according to The Tribune-Review. "He raised uncomfortable questions many people did not want to face about the kinds of environmental protection programs we want going forward as a commonwealth," **Hess** wrote. What **Quigley** also did was send out a profanity-laced email that some say took a slap at **Gov. Tom Wolf** and at environmental groups for failing to mount a defense against new oil and gas regulations that had cleared the state House and Senate. "Where the f**k were you people yesterday," **Quigley** wrote in an April 16 email. "The House and Senate hold Russian show trials on vital environmental issues and there's no pushback at all from the environmental community? Nobody bothering to insert themselves into the news cycle?" Quigley's email suggested that there had been no penalty for Democratic "apostasy." Two Democratic senators who had voted for the regs were later the subject of attack advertisements. "The language is shocking," said House Republican spokesman Stephen Miskin. "I do think (the email) was a slap at the governor," House Republican spokesman **Steve Miskin** told the **Trib's Brad Bumsted**.

Op-Ed: Ousted DEP boss John Quigley got railroaded The truth never got its pants on. There's a famous quote variously attributed to either Mark Twain or Winston Churchill to wit: A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets its pants on. Right now, no one knows that better than John Quigley who resigned as Department of Environmental Protection Secretary on Friday. Full disclosure — John is a friend of mine. I worked with him at PennFuture and we collaborated on several projects as independent consultants. I have known and admired him and his work for more than a decade. Quigley is smart, courageous, forthright, fair and pragmatic. He adheres to no straitjacket ideology, and makes decisions based on facts. He is a skilled administrator committed to serving the interests of the public. He makes himself accessible and understands that transparency in the workings of government is the best way to combat public cynicism and build public trust. He is, in short, an excellent public servant. Quigley was brought down by a vicious, successful smear campaign aided by shoddy reporting of half-truths and outright lies that journalists did not bother to verify. The smear was orchestrated by Sen. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne, who was attempting to divert public attention away from his votes to kill regulations that strengthen and modernize oversight of gas drilling and his vote to block Pennsylvania's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Mark Ruffalo, 'Hulk' actor and anti-fracking activist, re-enters debate at pivotal moment Mark Ruffalo has become a familiar face at anti-fracking rallies in Pennsylvania in his off-screen life. On Tuesday, the actor who portrays "The Incredible Hulk" in the most recent Marvel superhero films, sent a letter to Tom Wolf, imploring the governor to take a more active role in responding to incidents of reported water contamination. "Many affected Pennsylvania residents have reached out to you asking you to visit their homes and see the damage first-hand," Ruffalo wrote, adding: "Respectfully, it's far past time that you do so." Coincidentally, Ruffalo's letter followed the resignation of state Environmental Secretary John Quigley, whose frustration over the Legislature's rejection of more stringent oil and gas regulations prompted an expletive-laced communiqué. Quigley's email was addressed to environmental groups he

believed weren't doing enough to support the administration's efforts. The administration has generally walked a middle line, advocating for stronger regulation and enacting a moratorium on new drilling on state land. Anti-fracking activists, including Ruffalo, have sought a ban on all hydraulic fracturing. "Wolf has met with landowners and individuals opposed to fracking," Wolf spokesman Jeff Sheridan said Monday, in response to the letter. "And while the governor does not support a ban on fracking, he looks forward to a continued discussion."

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Williams Pipeline Stockpiling Pipe In Lancaster Ahead Of Federal Approval even though it hasn't gotten approval for the project, pipeline builder Williams has begun storing thousands of made-in-Turkey gas pipe sections along the route of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline in Pennsylvania. More than 2,000 sections of pipe up to 80 feet long have been stockpiled in recent weeks at a former Alcoa plant outside of Lebanon. "It is a risk we take," said Williams spokesman Christopher Stockton. "The lead time on manufacturing the quantity of pipe is so long that it has to be milled long before we receive federal approval in order to meet our in-service commitments. "The pipe needs to be ready so that we can start work after we are authorized to proceed." A member of the Lancaster Against Pipelines group last week counted 2,112 pieces of 42-inch pipe stacked on the grounds of the former Alcoa plant near Rexmont, slightly north of the Lancaster County line. A local resident posted on Facebook that "They've been driving by our house on the daily for weeks. Pipe after pipe after pipe." Local pipeline opponents reacted strongly to learning the pipeline was being stockpiled in advance of a final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. "The Atlantic Sunrise pipeline has yet to receive federal approval, and yet Williams is so sure of the outcome that they're already stockpiling materials for this still-uncertain project," said Mark Clatterbuck, a Martic Township resident and co-founder of Lancaster Against Pipelines. "This demonstrates not only the arrogance and presumption of Williams, but also the profoundly broken state of the regulatory system supposedly keeping Pennsylvania's gas industry in check." The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which must approve interstate pipeline projects, has said it will rule on Williams' Atlantic Sunrise request sometime before Jan. 19, 2017...

LEBANON DAILY NEWS

Natural gas pipes stockpiled in South Lebanon The underground Atlantic Sunrise pipeline isn't expected to go online until late 2017, but pipes that may be used to construct it can now be viewed above ground in South Lebanon Township. Chris Stockton, a spokesman for the project, said there are currently about 80 miles of pipe stockpiled between two storage yards, one in Monroe County in northeastern Pennsylvania and one at 3000 State Drive, the site of the former Alcoa plant two miles south of Lebanon. The pipe segments are 40, 60 or 80 feet in length and are 30, 36, or 42 inches in diameter, Stockton said. Some typical 60-foot segments weigh about 10 tons each. The nearly 200-mile Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline project – owned by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line, a subsidiary of Tulsa, Okla.-based Williams – would bisect Lebanon County from north to south. It would also cross nine other counties while transporting natural gas from Marcellus Shale regions in northern Pennsylvania to the existing, 10,000-mile Transco Pipeline. The storing of pipes sparked concern from members of anti-pipeline group Lebanon Pipeline Awareness. Group president Ann Pinca said she was "surprised and dismayed" that pipe segments would be brought to the area before final approval of the project by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. "They're making the assumption that it's a done deal when it isn't a done deal," Pinca said. "There's nothing illegal about it, but we do think it sends a message." Stockton said it is common to manufacture and transport pipes to the area of a planned project before final approval by FERC and necessary to get the project online as early as anticipated. If the project would not be approved, the pipes could either be sold or used for a different Williams pipeline project elsewhere.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Pa. DEP leader had urged groups for 'pushback' in email HARRISBURG - In an email that precipitated his resignation, Gov. Tom Wolf's environmental protection secretary criticized environmental advocates for a lack of "pushback" against certain bills and said they were "without influence." He also accused Democratic lawmakers of "apostasy" and Republicans of "shilling" for the natural gas industry amid policy battles over drilling and power plant pollution. John Quigley, a longtime environmental advocate, resigned Friday after Wolf's office disclosed that it was looking into the email Quigley had sent from a private email address to environmental group leaders on April 13. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the email on Monday. In the email, Quigley wrote that he "can no longer hold back" and warned that vetoes by Wolf should not be taken for granted. He also suggested that it was counterproductive for environmental

groups to stick to a position of opposing drilling. "Do some of you think that staying on your moratorium hobby horse does anything to advance the cause of protecting the environment and public health? Do you really think the Governor will veto this (legislation) with NO support? The environmental community is without influence in Harrisburg. What will you do about it?" Quigley wrote. Wolf has not discussed the contents of Quigley's email. In a brief interview on Friday with The Associated Press, the Democratic governor confirmed Quigley's resignation, but he would not explain the reasons behind it and said he did not fire Quigley. Wolf said only that Quigley did a "fine job." ...

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Senate aims to boost buyout offers to Defense Department employees The Defense Department could dangle a much larger cash carrot before its employees to induce them to resign or retire, under a budget bill up for Senate voting this week. The bill would grant the Pentagon's request to increase the maximum "voluntary separation incentive payment" — more commonly known as a buyout — from \$25,000 to \$40,000. A report released Monday by the Senate Armed Services Committee says the "increased maximum amount would adjust for inflation from when VSIP was first authorized for the Department of Defense in 1993." The increase apparently would apply only at that department, rather than government-wide. However, the department accounts for more than a third of executive branch employees outside the independent U.S. Postal Service. Buyouts first were used in the government during the 1990s as agency workforces shrank overall, in order to avoid the complex and often costly government layoff process known as a reduction in force. Offers are made at an agency's discretion; an employee has no right to claim one unless offered.

Letter: Larger households get a bargain on water Regarding the May 19 Metro article "Water rates called unfair for larger households": The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has progressive rates. It charges more per gallon as usage goes up. The more people living in a household, the easier it is to get into the higher-rate brackets. I look at the WSSC rates from a different perspective. If I lived alone and used about 20 gallons per day on average, my cost per thousand gallons would be huge. For a quarterly bill, I would be charged \$14.92 for water and sewer usage, but my total bill would be \$52.85. That is \$52.85 for 2,000 gallons, or \$26.42 per thousand gallons. Compare this with a rate of \$18.21 per thousand gallons for households using more than 9,000 gallons per day. That is because of the charges that are levied at a flat rate per hookup: the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund fee and charges for account maintenance and infrastructure investment. For a household with six people, those fees are split among six people, meaning each pays only \$6.32. Those six people are getting a bargain by living in one household, provided, of course, that they don't waste water.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Delaware OKs \$7.9M for Chemours, but it might not matter Delaware OKs \$7.9M for Chemours, but it might not matter Delaware has approved \$7.9 million to keep Chemours in Delaware, but the company declined to commit itself to Delaware.

Neighbors frustrated over Newport Road bridge Neighbors frustrated over Newport Road bridge Debbie Weaver is frustrated that Newport Road will close near her home this summer for construction on the bridge over the CSX train tracks. Some drivers might get lost in her quiet neighborhood as they search for a way across the tracks, she said.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Cool, wet weather puts a damper on Sussex crops Sussex County — Soggy fields are posing a challenge for some local farmers still reeling from the damage of an April frost, but local farmer Charlotte Magee says all is not lost. "We lost our early berries in that freeze. We would have had strawberries three weeks ago," the Magee Farms owner said. "But it's surprising to see that the second blossoming is huge for us. We weren't sure what was going to happen." The cloudy,

cool conditions of May have slowed the ripening of Magee's berries and other crops across the county, but bright red berries in the fields near Lewes offer a sign of hope. Extensive rain hasn't damaged her blossoming crop, she said, but on the west side of the county, flooding conditions have wiped out some producers. "It's really the whole East Coast, from Florida up that's being affected," she said. "We normally would have early sweet corn, early watermelon and strawberries. People need to keep in mind that the weather truly dictates what us as farmers can do."

Building is boon to Sussex economy Whirling saws and tapping hammers mean dollar signs to Sussex County government. More than half of the county's revenue so far this fiscal year can be tied directly to construction and real estate. And every facet of building-related revenue is over budget, to the tune of more than \$7 million during the county's first three fiscal quarters.

DELAWARE PUBLIC MEDIA (NPR)

Master plan for Wilmington port expansion in development stage The report prepared by AECOM lays out three different potential sites for port expansion: with total project costs ranging from \$300 million to over \$1 billion. The plan offers multiple options at the state-owned Port of Wilmington but many additional resources would be needed to make them happen. One would involve work to make the Port more container friendly. The port's Executive Director Gene Bailey says they currently have limited container capacity, with only two weekly banana suppliers shipping in containers: DOLE and Chiquita. "So what we have to do is look and see: take a look at the forecasting that's been presented by AECOM, what the growth is, where the growth is coming from and then you sit down and you take a look at those suggestions for consideration and you evaluate how that best fits with the forecast for growth and then you start to make a determination on the direction you'd like to go in," Bailey said. Other options developing operations at Riveredge Industrial Park south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge and Edge Moor, on the former Evraz Steel site in Claymont. New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon has been advocating for the Riveredge location. "It's probably the most valuable because of a lot of things but one: it doesn't have any bridges to go under. These large ships come right off the ocean and they can turn around there, and go back," Gordon said.

State panel approves Strategic Fund dollars for Chemours State taxpayers may shell out \$7.9 million to help keep 900 Chemours jobs in Delaware. The Associated Press reports those full-time jobs would only be guaranteed through 2020. That money, approved by the Council on Development Finance Monday, will also go towards potentially headquartering the performance chemical company in the state. The AP also says Chemours is in talks with other states it could possibly call home and hasn't committed to Wilmington. The Council on Development Finance oversees Delaware's Strategic Fund, which gives out grants to companies promising to expand, relocate or keep jobs here. State lawmakers slashed corporate taxes and boosted incentives and credits earlier this year costing tens of millions of dollars in order to lock-in two Dow DuPont spinoff companies in Delaware. It was also an appeal to Chemours – a former DuPont division – to keep its workforce here. Earlier this month, the company posted its first profitable quarter since separating from DuPont in July 2015.

WDEL RADIO

VIDEO: Newark City Council endorses Downtown Development District Grant plan Making downtown an even more inviting destination is a big part of Newark's motivation to apply for a Downtown Development District Grant. Applications have to be submitted by June 1st, and city officials expect a decision by the state will be made sometime this summer. Newark's goals include preserving and enhancing the economic vitality of its downtown, giving housing opportunities for people of different ages and incomes, providing affordable places for small businesses to increase employment and preserving and enhancing Newark's historic and cultural image. Councilman Stu Markham has a vision of what he wants if Newark is awarded one of the grants. "I would like to see funding be put toward more affordable housing for more residents in the city," said Markham. Newark's proposal is featured on Main Street from Library Avenue to the Green, it also includes the College Square shopping center and Cleveland Avenue. City Council voted 5-0 to move forward with the application.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

Editorial: An ethane storage hub would create WV jobs West Virginia is, almost literally, sitting on mountains of wealth that could bring new manufacturing, new jobs, cleaner energy and increased tax revenue to the Mountain State. "This is a real opportunity to move the needle on where we are in manufacturing," Brian Anderson, director of the West Virginia University Energy Institute, told a gathering of gas and oil professionals. Natural gas in the highly productive Marcellus shale formation — which underlies much of the northern part of the state — is rich in liquids, especially ethane, the primary feedstock for the petrochemical industry. In fact, it was the conversion of ethane into ethylene by scientists in a pre-Union Carbide Corp., company here in West Virginia that gave birth to the petrochemical industry and the large-scale chemical manufacturing that took place in the Kanawha Valley for generations. That industry created many of the safe and inexpensive products we use on a daily basis... The state could capture the value of that lost resource by building an ethane storage hub and associated pipelines to connect ethane-rich supply areas with existing chemical plants along the Ohio and Kanawha rivers, as well as the Marathon Petroleum refinery at Catlettsburg, Kentucky. "However, we cannot transform these raw materials through manufacturing without infrastructure to support the demands and needs of the associated industries," wrote Steve Hedrick, president and chief executive officer of the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center, in a Daily Mail Opinion column March 31. "Infrastructure requirements associated with new build-outs must be delivered by multiple parties. It won't be easy or cheap. We'll need cooperation and support from the private sector, the federal and state governments, private equity and more," Hedrick said. It's a big challenge for West Virginia. But if the state is going to reverse its decline in population, job base, revenue and vitality, it must meet the challenge.

Blankenship lawyers get more time for appeal Lawyers for Don Blankenship will get three more weeks to prepare an appeal of the former Massey Energy CEO's conviction for conspiring to violate mine safety and health standards, a federal court has ruled. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted Blankenship's legal team a requested extension of time to file their initial legal brief. That brief is now due on June 20. It had been due on May 31, under a previous scheduling order issued by the Richmond-based court. Lawyers for Blankenship had asked for the additional time, and said that federal prosecutors did not oppose the delay. "This appeal presents the exceptional circumstances of a trial that lasted nearly nine weeks from jury selection to verdict and a transcript that spans more than 6,000 pages," Blankenship's lawyers said. "A trial of that length inherently involves an unusually large number of disputed rulings, and appellant expects to raise more issues in his brief than would be presented in a typical appeal. The parties also will need to present more than the usual amount of factual and procedural background information."

Freedom's Southern gets travel approval A federal judge has given former Freedom Industries official Gary Southern permission to travel to England if there is a family emergency involving Southern's ailing father. U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston approved Southern's request in an order issued on Friday. The judge included some restrictions on Southern's travel, after prosecutors raised concerns about what they called an "open-ended" request. Any specific trips must be approved by Southern's probation officer and "each single instance of travel" must be limited to no more than 14 days, the judge said. Southern sought court approval for the travel because he remains on supervised release after completing a jail sentence for water pollution crimes he admitted to in a deal with prosecutors. Southern's lawyers asked that Johnston pre-approve Southern for travel, while he is on supervised release, to his native England "in the event of a medical emergency in his immediate family." Southern's parents live in his native England and the health of his father, who has Parkinson's disease, has deteriorated. Southern wanted permission to travel to England to visit his father and mother should his father's health continue to decline and a health emergency or emergencies arise.

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

National Parks Service Opens Environmental Education Camp A camp for environmental education is now open to the public in Summers County, West Virginia. The Register-Herald reports that Camp Brookside celebrated its opening Saturday afternoon.

WEST VIRGINIA RECORD

Texas, W. Va. AGs ask EPA to halt spending on Clean Power Plan CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton recently sent a letter urging the Environmental Protection Agency to stop spending federal tax dollars to comply with the halted Power Plan. “The entire point of the Supreme Court’s extraordinary action in putting a stop to the Power Plan was to preserve the status quo pending the outcome of the litigation,” Morrisey wrote in the letter, which can be viewed online. “EPA should respect that action by leaving things the way they are until the courts have had their say.” The letter responds to a request by 14 state environmental agency officials seeking additional information and technical assistance from the EPA related to the Power Plan. Morrisey and Paxton ask that EPA decline the invitation to spend federal taxpayer dollars to aid compliance, specifically by discontinuing work on the “Clean Energy Incentive Program” (“CEIP”) and the non-final carbon trading rules. In February, Morrisey and Paxton led 29 states and state agencies in winning a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court, a decision that denies the EPA authority to enforce the rule and calls into serious question the rule’s legality. All compliance deadlines associated with the Power Plan were also frozen. The letter asserts that because the CEIP and the carbon trading rules have no legal significance without a legally operative Power Plan, taking action on these issues calls into question the EPA’s commitment to the Supreme Court’s order. Morrisey said that at minimum the EPA should reconsider spending scarce resources on a rule that the Supreme Court has indicated raises serious legal questions. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit recently rescheduled oral arguments on the merits of the case until Sept. 27 before the full court as opposed to a three-judge panel. “We welcome this unusual step by the full court, which confirms our long-held view that the Power Plan is an unprecedented and transformative rule of a kind the states have never seen from EPA,” Morrisey said in a press release. “We look forward to presenting our arguments in September.”

CLARKSBURG EXPONENT TELEGRAM

WVU researcher pushes for ethane storage hub in Appalachia WESTON — Appalachia needs ethane storage facilities and connecting pipelines if the region is to become a center for industries that use natural gas and its byproducts, according to a top West Virginia University researcher. Brian Anderson, director of West Virginia University’s Energy Institute, told members of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association that if storage and pipeline infrastructure isn’t built, the region risks having its valuable natural gas resources siphoned off to the Gulf Coast, where facilities already exist to turn the resources into thousands of products. Anderson is a graduate of West Virginia University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He spoke last week at the association’s spring meeting at Stonewall Resort. The Marcellus and Utica shales have been driving U.S. gas production since 2008 and there are decades, if not centuries, worth of gas yet to be tapped, Anderson said. WVU has responded by creating the Energy Institute and by hiring nine faculty who are tasked with looking into how the region can tap into this valuable raw material. They’re investigating opportunities that range from power production to natural gas vehicles to heating homes to converting natural gas into chemicals. “We’re really trying to work on everything on the downstream side,” he said, referring to the refining, processing and purifying of raw natural gas, as well as the marketing and distribution of products derived from natural gas. Because many products currently made with oil also can be made with natural gas, and natural gas is currently relatively cheap, it’s possible to shift from an oil-based economy to a natural gas economy, although numerous challenges must be overcome in process synthesis, reaction engineering and other areas, Anderson said. “As I look forward in the future in this region, as we build out what I envision to be a manufacturing industry off the natural gas we have in the Appalachian basin, we build these new plants with the next generation of technologies,” he said. “This is a real opportunity to move the needle on where we are in manufacturing.”

EPA’s new methane rules are not needed, natural gas industry leaders say CLARKSBURG — West Virginia’s natural gas industry players are not pleased with the EPA’s new crackdown on methane emissions, which is meant to reduce leaks from natural gas facilities by 40-45 percent by 2025. They say the regulations will put an undue burden on the industry, force marginally producing wells to close and could increase gas prices for consumers...

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

Chemours to pay for carbon filter installation in Vienna VIENNA, W.Va. (AP) - A company has agreed to pay for the installation of carbon filters in Vienna's water treatment plant. Vienna Mayor Randy Rapp says the installation paid for

by Wilmington, Delaware-based Chemours Co. will begin immediately. Rapp told [the Parkersburg News and Sentinel](#) the filters are temporary while construction begins on a permanent facility. Chemours said in a statement that it expects the carbon filter treatment "will be operational in a matter of months, if not sooner." Activated carbon filters removes traces of the chemical C8 from water supplies. They were installed at several local water service districts as part of a settlement of a 2001 lawsuit involving DuPont. West Virginia officials issued a "Do Not Drink" advisory last week for Vienna water after the Environmental Protection Agency announced a new limit for the amount of the chemical C8 present in Wood County's drinking water. The advisory was issued after it was discovered that the C8 levels in the city's water source are slightly above the new limit. The EPA established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion of C8 in drinking water. That's significantly lower than the agency's prior advisory level based on short-term exposure of 400 parts per trillion. C8 has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease and high blood pressure in pregnant women. The chemical was used until 2013 in the manufacture of Teflon at the DuPont Washington Works plant along the Ohio River. In 2015, DuPont spun off its performance chemicals division into Chemours. The distribution of water from other areas to Vienna residents began Friday. The distribution of water bottles was scheduled to start Monday at the Vienna Utility Board garage.

[Morrisey to take applications for medication incinerators](#) CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey says law enforcement agencies can soon apply for incinerators for unwanted and expired prescription medication. Morrisey says in a news release that his office and the attorney general Public Health Trust's advisory board will review and award grants in August. He says priority will be given to law enforcement agencies that have received or previously applied for drop boxes where residents can dispose of medications. The advisory board consists of members of the Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia State Medical Association, West Virginia Nurses Association and the state Higher Education Policy Commission. Morrisey wants to reduce prescription drug use in West Virginia by at least 25 percent. The state leads the nation in the rate of overdose deaths.

[National Parks Service opens environmental education camp](#) HINTON, W.Va. (AP) – A camp for environmental education is now open to the public in Summers County. [The Register-Herald](#) reports that Camp Brookside celebrated its grand opening Saturday afternoon. National Park Service District Supervisor David Bieri says the camp is opening as a residential center and environmental education center for locals. He says Camp Brookside will feature day camps and overnight activities for children. It will also include activities such as paddle board lessons, Tai Chi, hikes, yoga and more. "The possibilities for this camp are wide open," he said. "We have a partnership with a local group called Active Southern West Virginia, and we're doing health and wellness programs through the summer. The camp was formerly an employee camp for Union Carbide employees from Alloy. It was bought by the National Parks Service in 1993 and was restored thanks to funds by U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, who died in 2010. Bieri said he hopes the public comes to the park often. "There's a national park right here in their backyard," he said. "This is their park. Getting kids out here is a way to get kids involved in learning, and when kids come, their parents come. It's great for everyone."

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

[Ice Cream Trail helps boost agricultural tourism in Maryland](#) People will travel miles and miles to sample fresh-off-the-farm ice cream and learn about the treat's origins. "People really like to be able to come out to a farm and see the animals," said Megan Keyes, who, along with her parents, runs Keyes Creamery in Aberdeen, one of nine stops on Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail. "It's something that consumers don't necessarily get to see every day — or even in a lifetime, depending on where they live." The state Department of Agriculture launched the trail five years ago with seven farms that make and sell ice cream to consumers to encourage people to visit working farms — and buy local. Now with nine stops, it stretches more than 290 miles from Ocean City in the east to Washington County in the west, offering a taste of Maryland's dairy industry. The initiative has boosted Maryland agri-tourism, which is helping farmers diversify by tapping into a growing trend of mixing travel with a burgeoning interest in local food and agriculture-related experiences. Farms that might raise cattle or grow produce are luring tourists with shops that sell their meats, vegetables, eggs and cheeses. Some are adding attractions such as ice cream stands, wineries and breweries. Many offer tours of production facilities, pick-your-own fruit and vegetable operations, and weekend events. "Ag tourism in

Maryland, as in many states, has grown as a source of income for farmers," said Mark S. Powell, chief of marketing and agribusiness development for state Agriculture Department, which has been working since 2001 to promote local products and farms. "There's been a significant increase in consumers' awareness of where their food comes from. ... There's an interest in connecting with farmers and wanting to support local agriculture."

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Commentary: Hard to see forest when counting trees as harvest (By Tom Horton) If you walked alone and untutored through the tall pines, century-old oaks, big beeches and sweetgums of the forest, near where the Eastern Shore's Wicomico River carves a bend known as Pirates Wharf, I'm pretty sure the need to begin cutting it down as the best way to protect its health wouldn't leap to mind. Indeed, if you were accompanied by Joan Maloof, emeritus biology professor at Salisbury University and a nationally regarded expert on old-growth forests, you'd come away convinced the woods at Pirates Wharf is well on its way to becoming something truly special — if we let it follow its natural destiny across the next century or two.

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL GAZETTE

New law will boost wetlands protection A new measure signed into law will improve wetland conservation and restoration efforts, said Gov. Larry Hogan. The Nontidal Wetlands Mitigation Banking Bill "removes obstacles and clarifies policies to spur more public-private partnerships and wetlands protection projects," according to the Maryland Department of the Environment. Hogan said the bill is an example of environmentalists, developers and engineers working together to improve the environment and the economy. "This bill is living proof our state is open for business and committed to the environment," Hogan said. "This is good news for our state, the Chesapeake Bay and the local watersheds throughout Maryland." The new law takes effect July 1, MDE said.

New guide available for citizen scientists The Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. has released a guide for citizen scientists who want to detect and eliminate harmful bacteria in their waterways. The guide, "Safe Waters, Healthy Waters: A Guide for Citizen Groups on Bacteria Monitoring in Local Waterways," explains how to identify high bacteria areas, find pollution sources and share results with the public. Monitoring bacteria can help "identify human health risks associated with drinking water, shellfish consumption and recreational water contact," the organization said. Potential threats include sewer leaks, illegal dumping and failing septic systems, the center said. "Citizen monitoring programs can help to sample where other agencies aren't testing or provide data to convince local agencies to establish monitoring programs," said Hye Yeong Kwon, executive director of the Center. "It is also an effective way to improve the public's knowledge of the safety of their water and to act as a 'watchdog' to ensure that local agencies are addressing the problem." The guide is available at: http://www.cwp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SAFE-WATERS-Guide_Final.pdf

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

After decades of shellacking, river's slow return to life showing up in mussel hunt Group wants to establish a baseline population of filter feeders that also serve a gauge for the Anacostia's health. It was hard to hear Jorge Ribas Montero above the din of traffic helicopters circling over Washington, DC, as he described the handful of muddy shells he and a small team had just dug from the mucky bottom of the Anacostia River. In a couple hours of combing through the thick mud exposed at low tide, they'd found the shells of two Eastern floaters, a paper pondshell and a nonnative Asian clam — not much, perhaps, but something for an urban river that many still think of as containing little life, let alone mussels. Taking cover from a sudden downpour under the footbridge that connects the river's Kingman and Heritage islands, Montero explained why he and others from the Anacostia Watershed Society were on this wild mussel chase in the first place, seeking specimens dead or alive.

Blog: Prehistoric Native Americans harvested Bay oysters sustainably, study finds Bivalves' resilience through the ages could offer insights for bringing them back now, authors suggest. Native Americans around the Chesapeake Bay may have lived hand to mouth in prehistoric times, but they apparently never got so desperate or greedy that they depleted a readily available food source: the estuary's once-abundant oysters. That's the upshot of a new study looking at Bay oyster sizes and harvesting activity through the ages, which was published Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Chesapeake oysters, now depleted to 1 percent of what they were a century ago, showed remarkable resilience in the distant past, the authors found, despite intensive fishing, rising sea level and changing

climate. “That gives me hope we can find a way to restore oysters,” said Torben Rick, an anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, and lead author of the paper. He suggested that the researchers’ findings could offer insights for future management of the Bay’s oysters, which have been decimated in modern times by overharvesting, disease and habitat loss.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM BLOG

EPA releases environmental justice action agenda Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020), a strategy to advance the agency’s environmental justice efforts. Over the next five years, EJ 2020 will serve as a framework to advance environmental justice—particularly in communities where a combination of environmental, health, social and economic factors disproportionately affect the community. According to the EPA, environmental justice is the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.” Under the strategy, the EPA will work to improve results for overburdened communities, incorporate environmental justice in decision-making, build partnerships with states and co-regulators, strengthen their ability to take action on environmental justice issues, and demonstrate progress on critical national environmental justice challenges.

Local, state, federal agencies open 22 public access sites in Chesapeake Bay region In 2015, Chesapeake Bay Program partners opened 22 boat ramps, fishing piers and other sites that grant public access to creeks, streams and rivers in the region. Virginia opened 10 sites along eight waterways; Pennsylvania opened six sites along the Susquehanna River; Maryland opened five sites along three waterways; and the District of Columbia opened one site along the Anacostia River. There are now 1,247 public access sites in the watershed for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities. The varied ownership of the region’s public access sites demonstrates the importance of establishing strong partnerships and public access initiatives at all levels of government and with nongovernmental organizations: nine of the new sites are owned by local governments, nine are owned by state governments, two are owned by the federal government and two are owned by nongovernmental organizations. “As the state with the most public water access points in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Maryland will continue to seek out innovative partnerships to create, enhance and improve water access so more of our citizens can enjoy the beauty and bounty of the Bay,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary of Natural Resources Mark Belton in a media release. “Expanding public access, either through creating new access points or improving existing sites, is a worthwhile goal for Bay restoration, our citizens and the state.”

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

Report card: Overall Chesapeake Bay health improved last year The largest estuary in the nation scored a “C” grade in 2015, an indication of having a moderate ecosystem health, according to a press release issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The Chesapeake Bay Report Card noted “overall improvement in Bay health but still poor to moderate conditions. Decreased nutrient levels are significantly improving Chesapeake Bay health.”

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Prince William to continue testing wells near coal ash ponds Prince William County has ordered additional water tests at two houses near Dominion Virginia Power’s coal ash ponds despite a report from a county-hired contractor that concluded the ponds “do not represent a potential source in connection with lead or other constituents identified in the private well samples” taken earlier by the state. The county hired Ashland-based Resource International as experts to help review test results from wells at homes near the ash ponds and help advise the county as Dominion Virginia Power prepares to close the ponds at Possum Point Power Station and three other sites around the state. Resource International’s review of six Health Department well tests found no evidence of coal ash contamination and concluded that the tests were scientifically sound and valid. Those tests had been called into question by some residents, politicians and environmentalists. Further, Resource International found that groundwater from the Possum Point plant

and coal ponds could not naturally move toward the nearby homes with wells. But additional outside tests of some of the same wells yielded vastly different results, which were not available to Resource International when it prepared the report. “We could not see a connection between what’s in the groundwater for the residents and what’s in the groundwater on the coal ash side,” county Solid Waste Division Chief Thomas Smith said of the report. “One reason we’re going out and doing more testing is because some of those test results were different and we don’t know why. ... We’re trying to help the residents figure out what the best solution to their water quality is.”

WRIC-TV RICHMOND

Protesters speak up at the Dominion RiverRock Festival RICHMOND, Va (WRIC) — Despite the chilly weather, thousands came out for the Dominion RiverRock Festival, but not everyone was there to join in the fun. Protesters were at Browns Island during the festival. Kate Addleson, Director of Virginia Sierra Club, was among the protesters. She says she just wants people to know what is going on in their area. “Right here on the James River it is a beautiful setting obviously for a concert and all of the activities, but we want to make sure that all of the people who are out here coming to these events know what Dominion is really doing,” Addleson said. Protestors say the power company is pretending they care about the James River when all they really care about is their image. “They are polluting our rivers with coal ash, they have got the largest coal-fired power plant in the state just a few miles down the river here and they are also proposing a huge pipeline to be built across our state that many folks are concerned about,” Addleson said. Dominion Officials say the protesters are misinformed. Dominion says the water they are draining from ash ponds is tested and safe for releasing into the river. Residents like Allison Mullins say reports of the coal ash in the river is very concerning. “I did read the reports about coal ash being released into the river over a period of time and it is very concerning as a resident,” Mullins replied. In a recent tour, Dominion gave 8News a look at their \$35 million filtration system used to purify the water. Dominion is responding to the protest saying in a quote: “Thousands come to the event to celebrate the river. Today was not the day to take away from what event planners worked so hard to create.”...

ROANOKE TIMES

FAA approves test towers for Pulaski County wind farm A clean energy company that wants to put four towers on a Pulaski County ridge to test conditions for a wind farm has received clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA determined this week that the 198-foot-tall test towers would not pose a hazard to passing aircraft. Approval by the agency is an early step in plans by Apex Clean Energy of Charlottesville to build an energy-producing wind turbine project south of Claytor Lake, on land within the 17,000-acre Blue Ridge Boy Scout Reservation. Apex is also planning a wind farm in Botetourt County; that project is well ahead of the one in Pulaski. Tentative plans call for a wind farm in Pulaski County that would produce 180 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power 50,000 homes. That’s more than twice the output of the Botetourt project, which is expected to include a row of 25 turbines — each one as tall as 550 feet — on top of North Mountain near Eagle Rock.

FREDERICKSBURG FREE LANCE STAR

Editorial: King George’s latest power play: solar Already home to a coal-fired power plant and the methane-gas burning plant at its massive commercial landfill, King George is no stranger to producing electricity. Now the county Economic Development Authority has approved a deal to bring a solar power plant to 119 acres in the county industrial park near existing power plants in western King George. Coronal Group of Charlottesville plans to lease county and privately owned land in the park to create a 15- to 20-megawatt solar farm. King George officials deserve praise for the months of effort they have put in to bring this plan forward. Adding solar to the county’s power-producing portfolio is a big win — it’s clean, quiet and it doesn’t create any stinky emissions. Unfortunately, odor and noise are issues county residents have had to live with as a result of the landfill and Birchwood power facility off State Route 3. However, the electricity already being produced helped open the door for cleaner, greener solar power to be produced there and sold to Dominion Virginia Power. Coronal can tap into the transmission lines used by the Birchwood plant and the King George Landfill’s gas-to-energy operation, which turns methane—a byproduct of decomposing trash—into electricity. At 20 megawatts, the fields of solar panels would produce enough electricity to power 5,000 homes. And a solar farm would complement the open fields and wetlands in that area nicely. As Ruby Brabo, chairwoman of the King George Board of Supervisors, says: “It is a perfect fit.”...

WILLIAMSBURG YORKTOWN DAILY

Williamsburg seeking volunteers for 'Clean the Bay Day' From across Virginia, thousands of people will come together next month for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's annual "Clean the Bay Day," and the City of Williamsburg is looking for local volunteers to sign up now. Last year 6,000 volunteers statewide removed approximately 110,000 pounds of litter and debris along 450 miles of shoreline, according to a press release from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. This year's event, slated for June 4, will require thousands more volunteers on foot and in boats to pick up trash along the bay and its many rivers and streams. " 'Clean the Bay Day' is a great way for Virginians to do their part for the waterways we enjoy every day," said Tanner Council, the foundation's event coordinator. "With so many people working together, in just a few hours we make a huge difference in cleaning up the bay, rivers, streams, lakes, and beaches across the state." Waller Mill Park, located at 901 Airport Road, has been designated as the cleanup site in Williamsburg for this year's event. "Not only is Waller Mill Park a great place for boating, fishing, hiking scenic trails and enjoying a round or two of disc golf, it is also the home of our drinking water source," says Park Manager Michael VanAudenhoove. "When we keep the park clean, we keep our drinking water clean."

MISCELLANEOUS

THE EPA BLOG

EPA's Newest Environmental Justice Strategy Available for Public Review I recently asked a number of my EPA colleagues what they were most proud of about the EJ 2020 Action Agenda (or what we call EJ 2020). Each of them expressed how EJ 2020 represents an intensive effort across all regions, program offices, and by all levels of the organization to focus our attention on how to best connect communities most-in-need of environmental help with EPA's practical solutions. During the past year, EPA has been hard at work developing EJ 2020, the agency's strategy for environmental justice for 2016-2020. Building on Plan EJ 2014, as well as decades of significant environmental justice practice within communities and among our governmental partners and stakeholders, we have crafted a strategy that envisions an EPA that integrates environmental justice into everything we do, cultivates strong partnerships to improve on-the-ground results, and charts a path forward for achieving better environmental outcomes and reducing disparities in the nation's most overburdened communities.

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Draft Strategy Targets Lead, Infuses Justice in EPA Actions The EPA would aim to address major pollution challenges for overburdened communities such as lead exposure, while implementing previously developed tools and processes under its draft environmental justice plan. The EJ 2020 Action Agenda draws praise for its focus on eliminating blood-lead level disparities in children, its overburdened community-focused enforcement approach, its use of metrics and for what some called its measured overall approach to justice issues.

House Members Urge Quick Action on Drinking Water Rule The EPA should quickly strengthen the federal lead and copper rule under the Safe Drinking Water Act and not delay its proposal until next year, 32 members of Congress say. "We strongly advise that the Environmental Protection Agency not delay releasing updates to the lead and copper rule which are urgently needed today, not a year from now," the letter says about the EPA's plan to propose revisions to the water regulation in 2017.

Groups Spar Over Waste Recycling Rule Off-Ramps The American Petroleum Institute and industry allies are contesting EarthJustice arguments in reply briefs challenging the EPA's definition of solid waste regulation. Both sides railed against the verified recycler exclusion, a critical portion of the final rule that allows generators to recycle hazardous waste materials without having a hazardous waste designation.

White House Backs TSCA-Reforms; House Expected to Vote Tuesday Legislation to overhaul the nation's primary chemicals law by expanding the EPA's authorities to obtain information and regulate chemicals is backed by the White House and scheduled to be voted on in the House. The bill, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 2576), would overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act for the first time since 1976.

Consults for Cooling Water Intakes Debated in Briefs Environmental and industry groups disagree over the extent to which the EPA should consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies over the impacts of the cooling

water intake rule on threatened or endangered species. Neither the Clean Water Act nor the Endangered Species Act requires the EPA to seek technical assistance from the services to establish controls for cooling water intake systems at power plants and factories, groups representing electric utilities, oil and gas companies, and others say in a joint brief.

GREENWIRE

CLEAN POWER PLAN: Attorneys general demand EPA cease all work related to rule A pair of Republican state attorneys general are calling on U.S. EPA to halt all work related to the Clean Power Plan while the rule remains frozen by the Supreme Court. In February, the high court halted EPA's program for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants pending the resolution of complex litigation. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) penned a letter to EPA, accusing the agency of not according the court's decision "proper respect." Morrisey and Paxton asked EPA to stop helping states that want to proceed with the Clean Power Plan during the stay, as well as to stop two related rulemakings. They are among a group of attorneys general challenging the rule in court. "At a minimum, we urge you to consider that you are spending scarce resources on a rule that the Supreme Court has indicated raises serious legal questions," says the May 16 letter released today by Morrisey's office.

CHEMICALS: Key House Dems announce support of TSCA deal Last-minute changes to pending legislation to update the federal government's handling of toxic chemicals won the support of three top House Democrats today. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Frank Pallone of New Jersey said they had secured new changes that "will reduce the harm of the state preemption provisions in the bill." The changes will be made as a manager's amendment, the lawmakers said. They did not specify what was altered. The House Rules Committee scheduled a vote this evening to set the terms of debate for the bill, which is expected to see floor time this week (*E&E Daily*, May 23). Pallone said last week he believed the emerging compromise was worse than current law. His position put him at odds with Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), the ranking member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (*E&E Daily*, May 19). "Senator Frank Lautenberg dedicated his career to fixing this law, and we honor his memory in this bipartisan legislation bearing his name," the lawmakers' statement today said. "It is not the bill Democrats would have written on our own, but it is a long-overdue step forward to protect families and communities from toxic substances."

AIR POLLUTION: EPA advisory panel ready to meet despite legal challenge A U.S. EPA air pollution advisory panel plans to proceed with a public teleconference today despite an anti-regulatory group's legal bid to block it. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Particulate Matter Review Panel remains scheduled to start the teleconference at 2 p.m. EDT, according to a website posting that was confirmed by an EPA spokeswoman. The Energy & Environment Legal Institute had requested a stay to stop the meeting from occurring as part of a lawsuit filed earlier this month to force EPA to reconstitute the panel on the grounds that most members are not independent of the agency (*Greenwire*, May 17). As of this morning, Judge Tanya Chutkan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia had taken no action on the request, according to the court's online records system.

WATER POLICY: Army Corps permits would help expand 'living' shorelines The Army Corps of Engineers unveiled a plan Friday to update its five-year nationwide permits to disturb wetlands and other waterways protected under federal law. The proposal would update 50 "nationwide permits" for activities that affect mining, farming, commercial development, and oil and gas pipelines. Nationwide permits, as opposed to individual permits, are a type of general permit that provide communities and developers with a faster way of obtaining corps approval for numerous activities, as long as the proposed disturbance of regulated waters is relatively small. The current nationwide permits will expire on March 18, 2017. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act require the permits. The corps is proposing two new nationwide permits to authorize the removal of low-head dams and to build "living" shorelines, structures for erosion control that incorporate vegetation and the natural environment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

US rig count drops 2 last week to 404, another all-time low HOUSTON — The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. dropped by two last week to 404, another all-time low amid low energy prices. A year ago, 885 rigs were active. Houston oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. said Friday 318 rigs sought oil and 85 explored for natural gas. One was listed as miscellaneous. Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas declined by eight rigs while Kansas and North Dakota were down one each. Louisiana gained seven rigs and Colorado and Oklahoma were up one

apiece. Alaska, Arkansas, California, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming were unchanged. The U.S. rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981. The previous low of 488 set in 1999 was eclipsed March 11, and has continued to slide.